



*Fair Tide Home, pencil and mixed media, by Rachel, age 8*

*Strengthening our Community*



## Dear Friends,

I began working at Fair Tide in 2007 as program director. In 2011, I became executive director. I often describe the experience as being in a “sweet spot” —working with people who need help and with people who want to help others.

The highest form of fulfillment for me has been having an influence on the integrity and mission of Fair Tide as we strive to serve those in need of safe, affordable housing. Witnessing the compassion of our community has had a lasting affect on me.

Consider what Fair Tide has been able to accomplish:

- Since our inception we have sheltered 47 homeless households. In 2009, Fair Tide began offering case management services for The Housing Partnership in Rochester, New Hampshire. This partnership helped 25 formerly homeless, disabled households retain housing.
- In July 2016, Fair Tide met its 15-year compliance period with Maine Housing. Meeting this milestone resulted in an \$88,000 promissory note being forgiven, decreasing Fair Tide’s financial liabilities. This milestone also gives the agency options for a

mission change. How will Fair Tide address and serve community needs going forward? Do we continue to provide transitional housing? Will we develop more housing?

At the end of 2016 I will retire. We’ve planned carefully for this transition and I am very confident that the Fair Tide board of directors made an excellent choice in Emily Flinkstrom as incoming director. She welcomes the opportunity to align staff with a renewed vision for Fair Tide.

I thank the Fair Tide board of directors for their confidence in me and their support of this agency through good and not so good times. I look forward to staying in touch with Fair Tide and watching it continue to have a positive impact on our community.

Best wishes,

Mary Oplinger,  
Outgoing Executive Director

## Dear Supporters and Community Partners,

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Within my first few weeks as the incoming executive director at Fair Tide I realized that when Margaret Mead uttered these wise words she could have been referring to this organization. From its founding in 1998 by a handful of Kittery residents who were concerned about their homeless neighbors, to our most recent Hike for the Homeless fundraiser, which brought in two times the amount of donations as the previous year, Fair Tide's ability to thrive in housing and supporting people in need is owed to you. This unending community support fuels me with great excitement as I take the reigns of this wonderful organization.

As a native of South Berwick, Maine, I am thrilled to return to my home state after 10 years of working for non-profits in Utah, Colorado and Michigan. Along with my work experience, I bring an educational back-

ground in both business and social work, which I am ready to put to use as Fair Tide moves into the future.

While I officially joined Fair Tide in August, I gave birth to my first child in early October and have taken a few months to enjoy the new addition to my family. I very much look forward to jumping back in at the beginning of 2017 when Fair Tide staff and board members will come together to undergo an intensive strategic planning process. This thoughtful undertaking will allow us to determine the best path forward in serving more of our fellow community members in need.

Thank you for your support as we continue along our journey to end homelessness.

Sincerely,



Emily Flinkstrom,  
Executive Director



## BY THE NUMBERS

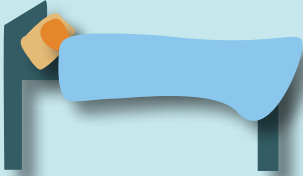
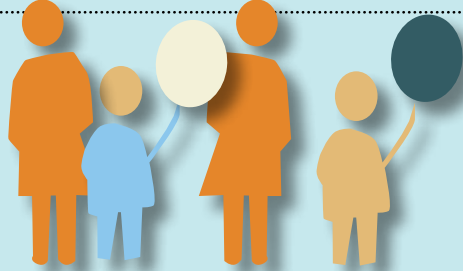
### OUR FORMER RESIDENTS...



...volunteer in the community, hold licensing and certifications, associates and even bachelor's degrees, own their own businesses and their own homes.

### IN 2016...

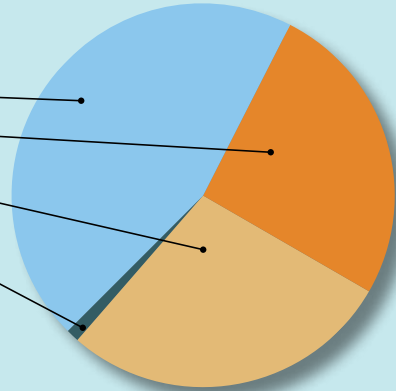
...our programs served  
21 households comprised of  
23 adults and 39 children,



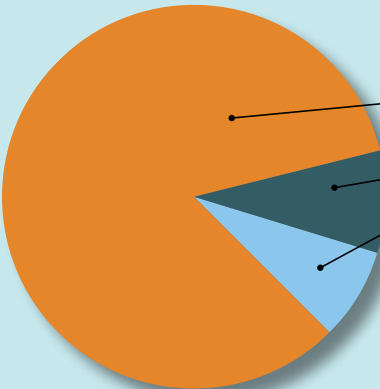
providing 22,630 bed nights and 550 hours of support including social work services, IT help, accounting and building maintenance. Our thrift store volunteers tallied 1,170 hours.

### TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Sales from thrift store: 45%  
Contributions /grants: 26%  
Income from programs: 28%  
\$\$\$ from bank interest: 1%




TOTAL REVENUE = \$398,354



Program services (*payroll, rent, insurance, maintenance*): 83%  
Management and general: 9%  
Fundraising: 8%

TOTAL EXPENSES = \$344,736



A portrait of Margaret Tully, a woman with short, wavy grey hair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a black blazer over a dark top and a multi-strand pearl necklace. The background is a wood-paneled wall.

“Fair Tide turned my life around and I was able to make choices that got me out of the situation I was in.”

## Margaret Tully: A Success Story

Margaret Tully has four more classes to go before she'll have her bachelor's degree. A few short years ago she wouldn't have believed that would be possible.

Margaret is a former resident of Fair Tide. She earned her associate degree while living there. That was after things started looking up again. Before then, things had fallen apart. She lost her business, an investment firm. Her car was repossessed. She moved in with a stranger who beat her for money.

With help from a domestic violence shelter in Portsmouth, Margaret was accepted into Fair Tide's transitional housing program. She worked hard, going to school full time and working in the housekeeping department of a local resort. In the

spring of 2015, Mary Oplinger, Fair Tide's executive director, hired her as a part-time bookkeeper, giving her the chance to gain the experience needed to get a better accounting job.

Earlier this year, Margaret joined a financial planning firm as head of operations.

"Fair Tide turned my life around and I was able to make choices that got me out of the situation I was in," Margaret says. "I was able to save money and get my life back on track. I'm proud to say that I do not get assistance from anyone today. I'm thankful the assistance was there for me when I so needed it."



# Hike for the homeless

In 2015 when Charlie Simpson decided to take a walk to highlight the needs of the homeless, he did more than raise awareness; he raised \$5,000. If that seems like a lot of money for a one-person walkathon, consider his route: Charlie walked from Seapoint Beach in Kittery, Maine, to the summit of Mt. Washington. It took five days.

This year, friends Ed McAbee and Mike Lee joined Charlie in the 110-mile trek, gathering nearly \$12,000 in pledges for Fair Tide’s transitional housing and support services that aid people in the Greater Seacoast of Maine and New Hampshire. At a cost of \$31, the price for sheltering one homeless person for one night, the money raised will fund more than 380 warm nights of shelter.

“This hike was a real challenge, but the knowledge that so many generous people were supporting Fair Tide was like wind at my back,” Mike Lee says.

“The enormous physical challenge that these gentlemen overcame, and the amount of money they raised on behalf of Fair Tide speaks to their dedication, and is a shining example of the difference that individuals can make to a cause,” says Emily Flinkstrom, Fair Tide’s executive director.

Want to join Charlie for next year’s hike? Contact Fair Tide for details.



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*Donations  
are still coming  
in, \$11,900 and  
climbing.*

# Volunteers pay it forward

Sandy Wing and Pat Dittrick didn't know each other before they started volunteering at Fair Tide's thrift store. Which is funny when you think about how that came to be.

Both women used to pass the State Road shop on their daily walks. Both would stop in and poke through the racks of clothing, to see what was new. And both, when they learned of Fair Tide's work with the homeless, found they wanted to be part of the mission that houses people while they work to get on their feet.

"Fair Tide is making a difference in people's lives," Sandy says. "Volunteering at the thrift store makes me feel that I am a part of something larger than myself, and that, in a small way, I'm giving back."

Sandy started volunteering in the thrift store a little more than two years ago after she retired.

“ Fair Tide does wonderful things for people. I like being able to give back — to pay it forward.”

Pat moved back to Maine after being away for many years. Volunteering was a meaningful way to make connections.

"I've been very fortunate in life. I have a nice place to live, I don't have to worry about too much," Pat says. "Fair Tide does wonderful things for people. I like being able to give back—to pay it forward."

During the last two years, Sandy and Pat have given 600 hours of their time to Fair Tide.





## FOUNDERS



### Founders dinner

So many people helped Fair Tide maintain its true bearing during the last year through donations and support of our fundraisers.

Attendance at our second annual spring dinner was at capacity as we honored some of the founders who helped make Fair Tide a reality—Debbie and Charles Ronnquist, Joanne Ferguson, Alan Bing, Don Driver and Craig Wilson.

Chef Bill Irish, formerly of Stonewall Kitchen, prepared a savory three-course meal made with generous donations from Carl's Meat Market, Terracotta Pasta and the Golden Harvest. Tributary Brewing supplied some of their finest beer, while Tannery Street Wineries provided the wine. Employees from the Black Birch graciously served as bartenders.

Attendees dined on roasted tomato soup, herb-crusted pork tenderloin with roasted parsnips, carrots and squash and chocolate bread pudding. The event raised nearly \$6,000 for Fair Tide, proving once again that community support is what keeps Fair Tide afloat.

Watch for information on next year's spring feast.

*A fair tide is  
a tidal current  
that helps  
increase the  
speed of a ship  
in the direction  
it wishes to go.*





# Warm hands, warm nights

Our fundraisers are not just about raising money—they also increase awareness of homelessness.

Sharon McLaughlin started making mittens from scraps of wool and old sweaters in 2013 and sold them at craft fairs for \$25. Around the same time, Fair Tide launched its “One Warm Night” initiative, asking the community for \$26 contributions to shelter a resident for one night. Today that cost is \$31. When Sharon, a member of Fair Tide’s board of directors, heard about it, the “One Warm Night” mitten fundraising endeavor was born. Sharon’s mittens sell at the nonprofit’s thrift store.

In 2015, Fair Tide raised \$3,906 from the sale of 126 pairs of mittens.

## GINGERBREAD HOUSE TOUR

There was a red-roofed barn with Santa’s sleigh and reindeer, and a pretzel-covered log cabin dusted with white frosting-snow, and a tropical island scene with a cabana, palm tree and surfboard. The entries in Fair Tide’s first gingerbread house tour, held last December, were as varied as the people the organization helps.

The three-day event held at the Buoy Gallery on Government Street featured more than three-dozen gingerbread houses and raised \$1,200.

126 mittens  
sold in FY15-16  
equals \$3,906.



\$3,906 equals  
126 warm nights  
for a resident  
living at  
Fair Tide!



## *Thank You for your financial and in-kind support during FY15–16*

G. M. Aguilar  
 AJ's Wood Grilled Pizza  
 Constance Alesse  
 Kent Allyn  
 Anonymous  
 ARQ Architects  
 Anne Austin & Robert Simpson  
 Autoworks  
 Galen Beale  
 Wendy Becker  
 Bob Begun  
 Alan Bing & Joan Beskinis  
 Jean Badger  
 Michael Badger  
 Thomas & Linda Baran  
 Gavin Barbour  
 Rebecca Barbour  
 Tom Barry  
 Beach Pea Baking Company  
 Terence Bennett  
 Bike & Build, Inc  
 Gary Blake  
 Bob's Clam Hut  
 Celie & Jennings Boley  
 John & Parkie Boley  
 Adam Boucher  
 Leslie Bouvier  
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 Bowl-A-Rama  
 Peter Braddock  
 Margaret Bradford  
 Maryhop Brandon  
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 Arlene & Will Brewster  
 Penelope Brewster  
 Ben Briggs  
 Chris Brodeur  
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Roberta Wood  
Tracy Wood  
Fred Wright  
York Hospital  
Holly Zurer



**PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO FAIR TIDE  
AS PART OF YOUR HOLIDAY GIVING.**

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## Fair Tide, Inc.

15 State Road  
Kittery, Maine 03904

(207) 439-6376  
[www.fairtide.org](http://www.fairtide.org)

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Jennifer Blekitas	Scott Havel
Keven Gage	Daria Brown
Pat Dittrick	Cherokee H
Sandy Wing	Erika Hume
Bridget Hale	Evan Pereira
Donna Begun	Andrew Daskoski
Terry Davis	Artin Dersironan
Sopha Wishashan	Philip Ware
Brigitte Steltz	Eleanor Doole
Connie Alesse	William South
Linda Baran	Courtney Edwards
Chris Long	Ms. Diharce
Emily Miinski	Ms. Draker
Lori Lizotte	Ms. Freeman
Griffen E	
Kyle	

